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OAS CONFERENCE CONTINUES; PLANS FOR FUTURE

Human Rights Resolution

PA090454 Paris AFP in Spanish 0124 GMT 9 Dec 81

[By Jose Antonio Puertas, special AFP correspondent]

[Text] Castries, 8 Dec (AFP) -- The topic of human rights violations in the hemisphere became, at the OAS General Assembly, a timid draft resolution which did not condemn or criticize the governments accused of committing abuses.

According to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH], there were serious violations in Columbia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay. However, the draft resolution, which was negotiated in a special working group, did not mention any of these countries, limiting itself to recognizing that although improvements have been made, there are still situations in which the restrictions to these rights were not eliminated.

The draft resolution was the result of several verbal quarrels between the delegates of some of the accused countries and the spokesmen of other delegations, particularly Mexico and Grenada. These countries fruitlessly tried to obtain the drafting of a resolution which better reflected the CIDH reports.

One of the participants in the group told AFP that several amendments proposed by Mexico were systematically rejected by the majority which represented states accused by the reports.

The text, which will be submitted to another debate in the commission of legal and political affairs before going to the plenum, referred to the CIDH reports but only "take note" of them and their recommendations and to thank the commission "for the important task it carries out in the protection and promotion of human rights."

CIDH President Tom Farer did not hide his disappointment with the loose text drafted by the work group but noted that for the commission, the important thing is the recognition of its work, the presentation of reports as well as the request that it makes to the countries to continue helping this organization.

The draft resolution urges the governments that have not done so yet, to adopt and implement the necessary measures to preserve and guarantee full respect for human rights.

Likewise, it stresses that the true protection of human rights must also include social, economic and cultural rights. It pointed out to the governments the responsibility of making the best possible efforts to fully participate in the cooperation for hemispheric development which it considers fundamental in helping to complete the development of human beings.

The text "notices with satisfaction" the decision of the governments that have invited the CIDH to visit their respective countries and urges those which have not agreed to or have not set a date for this visit, to make it as soon as possible.

Chile is the only country that decided to suspend any cooperation with the CIDH saying that the commission violated its own regulation in the preparation of its report on that country and because it believes that Farer "is a political activist who lacks any serenity, impartiality and the intellectual independence demanded by his position."

For the preparation of the reports read at the General Assembly, the CIDH visited Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala. El Salvador invited this commission to visit the country whenever it wants to during the debates on the reports.

The draft resolution on human rights urges the states which have not done so to sign the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights or San Jose Pact which so far only has the compliance of four countries: Costa Rica, Peru, Venezuela and Honduras.

In signing this convention, the countries accept the jurisdiction of the court and they can be summoned to it by individuals who feel they are victims of violations.

The draft resolution recommends to member states that, in conformity with the democratic system, they guarantee that power stem from the legitimate and free expression of the people's will according to the characteristics and situations in each country.

This paragraph represents a repeated charge of the CIDH regarding the lack of elections in many of the countries of the hemisphere.

The final matter proposed by the work group in this resolution points out to the need to defend and decidedly promote human rights including the right to live, to have personal security and liberty which will effectively contribute the preservation and full observance of these rights.

The work group was headed by Eladio Knipping Victoria, the Dominican ambassador to the OAS and chairman of the committee on legal and political matters. This group also included representatives from Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

Charter Reform Study

FL090005 Bridgetown CANA in English 2349 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 8 Dec (CANA) — The Jurisdicial and Political Committee of the OAS tonight agreed to appoint a working group to study article eight of the organization's charter which bars countries with territorial disputes against member states from joining the organization. The decision came following a 90-minute debate by the committee on a resolution proposed by the eight English-speaking members of the 29-nation organization during the 11th General Assembly of the OAS in session here.

The resolution called on the Permanent Council of the OAS to undertake a thorough study on article eight in the context of the progressive development of the OAS.

Trinidad and Tobago tabled an amendment, which it said had the support of the other seven CARICOM states, calling on the committee to recommend to the Permanent Council that a special session of the General Assembly be held as soon as the study was completed to act on its recommendations.

The resolution was introduced principally to secure admission into the OAS for two other CARICOM member states, Guyana and Belize which have territorial disputes with Venezuela and Guatemala respectively.

Debate on the resolution, which had been anticipated, never materialized. Especially after the Trinidad and Tobago delegation argued that the intention was not to debate or adjudicate in land claims. Costa Rica said it could not go along in changing any one or two of the articles in the charter. While Guatemala argued that article eight was one of the precepts of the charter that was "fully valid" and changing it would be changing a fundamental principle.

The United States said that the question of charter reform should be approached "with great care and scrupulous regard for established precepts." It said it would not favor opening a Panora box of "wholesale charter reforms" because of the opening provided by delegations over one specific article. The U.S. delegation contended that it would be unfortunate if the issue should lead to divisions in the organization and suggested that common ground be established on the matter.

As a solution it suggested that a working group be appointed to study the issue. This suggestion was supported by OAS member countries from both the Caribbean and Latin America. The group, which will comprise Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent along with the Dominican Republic, the United States, Panama, Guatemala and Venezuela, was mandated to begin its work immediately.

Year of the Family

FL092008 Bridgetown CANA in English 1944 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 9 Dec (CANA) -- Member countries of the Organisation of American States are to observe 1983 as "Inter-American Year of the Family." The decision has been taken here by the General Committee of the OAS following a resolution tabled by seven countries, including Grenada and Jamaica. The resolution urged that action should be taken to strengthen and promote the institution of the family in the region.

Next General Assembly

FL092058 Bridgetown CANA in English 2051 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 9 Dec (CANA) -- The next regular General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) is to be held in Washington, DC, site of the organisation's General Secretariat. The General Committee of the OAS last night agreed on the Washington venue following a suggestion by the United States delegation. The date for the meeting is to be decided by the Permanent Council of the OAS. The decision is expected to be ratified at the closing plenary session of the current assembly tomorrow.

OECS MEMBERS TO MEET IN ST LUCIA 12 DEC

FL091803 Bridgetown CANA in English 1623 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 9 Dec (CANA) -- The observance of human rights by members of the newly-established Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS) and United States aid initiatives in the region are among matters to be discussed at a 1-day meeting of the 7 territory sub-grouping in Saint Lucia on Saturday, 12 December.

The Saint Lucia meeting -- the first since the organization replacing the West Indies Associated States (WISA) Council of Ministers was formed -- is to discuss a 12-point agenda. The meeting, called for by newly-independent Antigua and Barbuda, follows the hosting by the Saint Lucia Government of the Organization of American States (OAS) 11th General Assembly.

According to provisional agenda released here, delegates will also discuss a regional coast guard, possible sources of funding for the new organization, as well as staffing and budgeting. The setting up of OECS institutions and overseas missions is also down for discussion during the meeting.

Dominica will be represented at the Castries meeting by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Eugenia Charles, and Attorney General Ronan David. They will leave on Friday. The OECS groups member states of the Windward and Leeward Islands. It is also expected that the location of the organization's headquarters will be discussed. Dominica favors Antigua, while Saint Lucia is making a bid for it to be located in Castries.

LEADERS SET STAGE FOR REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT

Galtieri, Liendo Meeting

PY082237 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2047 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (NA) -- Interior Minister and acting President Gen Horacio Liendo this afternoon met with Army Commander in Chief Gen Leopoldo Galtieri at the office of the army commander in chief. No information has yet been given about the issues discussed at the meeting.

The report on Liendo's presence at the office of the army commander in chief was released shortly after the announcement by military sources of the cancellation of the meeting the military junta was to hold tomorrow.

Galtieri Meets With Viola

PY092254 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA) -- Army Commander Lt Gen Leopoldo Galtieri and President Roberto Viola have been meeting since 1815 at the Olivos presidential residence. Galtieri arrived at 1810 in a helicopter of the army aviation command. After maneuvering for a few minutes over the residence, the helicopter landed in the garden near the presidential mansion.

A rumor said initially that the meeting was also attended by Gen Horacio Liendo, interior minister in charge of the executive branch, who was said to have arrived in the same helicopter as Galtieri. This was, however, categorically denied by government sources which said at 1854 that General Liendo was still in his office at the Casa Rosada.

Resolution Seen Imminent

PY100211 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0057 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA) -- While the political-institutional crisis remains unchanged one month after the departure of President Roberto Viola from office due to a heart ailment, today everything seemed to indicate that a resolution is imminent.

This impression gained momentum not only because the time limit set for a decision on the future chief of the executive branch has elapsed, but because of a meeting held tonight at the Olivos residence by President Viola and Army Commander in Chief Leopoldo Galtieri and another meeting held later by the three members of the military junta.

The latter meeting, despite being considered one of a merely social nature, was undoubtedly instrumental in letting Galtieri brief his colleagues of the navy and the air force on the meeting he held today with President Viola. The army commander in chief went to the Olivos residence at 1825 and left the residence at 2020. No official information has been given on the issues discussed at this meeting, which was the second held this week by Galtieri with Viola.

Galtieri, who is the duty president of the military junta, also conferred with Viola yesterday. Government sources said that Galtieri may have gone to talk to Viola as a delegate of the military junta to seek an agreement to find a normal solution to the situation.

It was reported today that Viola might agree to tender his resignation and would then make things easy for the junta by not forcing it to replace him. The report added that the president could talk over radio and television to the nation to explain the reasons for his departure. If Viola decided to say that he was leaving the presidency not only for health reasons but also for political reasons, the situation could become worse, observers said.

Galtieri's visit to Olivos -- by a helicopter which departed from the office of the army commander in chief -- was not officially admitted by the army nor was it reported by government house. Yet his visit has been widely reported. It was also reported that the three commanders in chief met tonight at a greater Buenos Aires villa. The report, released by unofficial sources, added that the wives of the three commanders were also present.

The above was interpreted, however, as a virtual meeting of the military junta, which was to hold its scheduled meeting either tomorrow or Friday. This was not made quite clear tonight. Government sources said that the reason a meeting of the junta was not called for tomorrow was not because Viola had not yet tendered his resignation. [sentence as received]

Military sources reiterated today that regardless of the position that the ailing president might assume, the junta has (?paved) the way for formalizing the replacement of the president by no later than Friday.

ECONOMY MINISTER ANSWERS MARTINEZ DE HOZ CHARGES

PY091954 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 9 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- Economy Minister Lorenzo Sigaut last night launched a scathing attack on his predecessor, Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, who said in an interview published yesterday that someone whose "very name" inspires confidence and credibility should be made economy minister. In his statement, Sigaut last night said he was breaking "my silence regarding the past in honour to the truth and as a reply to hypocrisy." The minister said he had "recreated possibilities of production in only eight months."

Sigaut's statement started by saying he did not have a "name" like "he who, having 'a name' and 'credibility' drove the country to the serious situation being faced since 1980." Sigaut added that his predecessor's statement were "ethically debatable."

The minister said he had never had any doubts "regarding my intellectual honesty and the intentions and chances of my efforts." His position, he said, had made him "leave some personal shreds" on the way, which he never regretted because they "made that vocation richer and tested it," he said.

Criticizing Martinez de Hoz' policies, he said the "diregiste" over-valuing of the peso reached by late 1980 "created serious technical disagreement among the government team itself." Sigaut also charged that his predecessor's "'permanent' rules of the game were later substantially altered by himself."

Martinez de Hoz, he said, was trying to force "elitist criteria on the authentic national feeling and pain."

If it had not been for measures taken since April, said Sigaut, "national industry farmers and regional economies" would have been sentenced to "an inexorable eradication."

Dismissing Martinez de Hoz' claims that his measures are "stop-gaps," Sigaut said that they have given hope anew to productive sectors, "which will recover work sources," and "saved the principles of the (national reorganization) process," even if all blame for the mishaps of the economy is now being layered on him.

Sigaut added that, unlike Martinez de Hoz who, he said, kept asking the country for "patience" after five years of government, he has said that the Argentine economy will be on its feet again in the second quarter of next year.

Sigaut ended by saying that he was breaking his silence because he understood that speaking up "guides us towards our good destiny and hypocrisy, instead, traps us in spiderwebs and sterile clashes."

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES RADIO NETWORK SUSPENSION

PY101029 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] [Begin Duran recording] As the public has been informed, by express order of President Celso Torrelio Volla and after a thorough study, the armed forces government has decided to suspend the radio network. [end recording]

The announcement, made by Juan Carlos Duran, minister secretary general of the presidency, says that the decision becomes effective as of tomorrow, Thursday 10 December.

[Begin Duran recording] It has been expressly stated that the radio stations throughout the country should carry out their activities within the framework of responsibility and compliance with the laws and rules in force in this field. [end recording]

In turn, Information Minister Jaime Humerez Seleme stressed the great importance of the measure announced this Wednesday night. He said:

[Begin Humerez recording] This event, which has very great importance for national radio broadcasting, is a clear demonstration that the armed forces government, following its plan of gradually moving toward the full restoration of liberties and the fulfillment of the program drawn up by President Torrelio for the next 3 years, is keeping its word. [end recording]

The suspension of the radio network is a concrete demonstration of that will to gradually return all liberties to the people, said Humerez Seleme. He added that the measure....

[Begin Humerez recording] ... is unrestricted, it is not tied to any conditions. The radio stations may broadcast their newscasts in the broadest manner and we have found among radio station directors, who are grouped in their organization, a very great understanding as well as a patriotic wish to cooperate with the government in the tasks of national integration and others. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT NOT OBSERVING AGREEMENT WITH MINERS

PY081736 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Dec 81 Section 2 p 5

[Text] Santa Cruz, 1 [Dec] (PRESENCIA) -- The human rights assembly of Santa Cruz has reported in a communique that the government is not complying with the agreement which was arrived at with the miners through the mediation of the Catholic Church, since the local supporters of the miners' strike have not been released.

The organization has reiterated that university students Erwin Eguez, Silvia Pena and Juan Baltasar Sandoval have been detained in this city. Eguez and Pena have been taken to La Paz where it has been decided to banish them.

The organization has voiced its "protest" over this situation since the only charge against the detainees "is the distribution of pamphlets relative to the miners' strike." It adds that "since the workers' conflict has been solved, the human rights assembly of Santa Cruz reports this grave violation of the agreement arrived at with the miners and the church."

"Freedom of expression is one of the fundamental rights which cannot be abolished, especially when this right is used for defending just causes as was the case here in demanding freedom and guarantees for workers."

Finally, the organization demands not only the suspension of the students' banishment, but their prompt release "on grounds of strict justice and in compliance with the agreements that have been accepted."

Poststrike Talks Begin

PY080237 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Mineworkers' delegates and government representatives have started negotiations in order to find solutions to the proposals made by the mineworkers on 24 November, the date when the mining strike ended. The meeting was opened by the Mining Corporation of Bolivia's [COMIBOL] general manager, Eng Armando Urioste, at 1845 today, Monday, at the COMIBOL offices on Santa Cruz avenue.

Also present at the meeting were heads of the various commissions appointed by the armed forces government.

PINOCHET ASKS STATE ENTERPRISE DIRECTOR TO RESIGN

PY092053 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet asked today for the resignations of all directors of state enterprises. It was reported that the purpose of the measure is to leave him a free hand in reorganizing the managements of those enterprises. This news was provided to the press by the president himself at the end of a meeting he had with the heads of the states enterprises.

The report was later confirmed by Col Francisco Ramirez, vice president of the Production Development Corporation. In his talk with newsmen, Colonel Ramirez said that the resignations will become effective on Monday next week.

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT REASSUMES OFFICE

PY091956 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Supreme Court President Israel Borquez reassumed his official duties after the terrorist attack staged against him on 6 November.

During his absence, he was replaced by Judge Jose Maria Eyzaguirre who handed over the position to him this morning.

NEW DEPUTY ARMY COMMANDER TO ASSUME POST

PY092038 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpt] On Friday, the change of deputy army commander will take place. The ceremony will be presided over by President Pinochet and will be held at the military school at 1930. On that occasion, Lt Gen Washington Carrasco Fernandez will hand over his post to Maj Gen Julio Canessa Robert, who will be promoted to lieutenant general during the ceremony.

CENTRAL BANK RELEASES TRADE BALANCE FIGURES

PY082059 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1121 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 8 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- According to a report released by the Central Bank last night, the Chilean trade balance shows a deficit of $2,702,100,000 during the first 10 months of this year as compared to a deficit of $1,039,000,000 during the same period last year.

The report indicates that imports during the January-October period reached $6,025,400,000, with a 21.9-percent increase as compared to $4,942,300,000 during the same period in 1980.

Exports decreased 14.9 percent, from $3,903,000 during the first 10 months of 1980 to $3,323,300,000 during the same period in 1981.

The bank attributed the deficit to a decrease in the international prices of export products, mainly mining products, the basic pillar of the Chilean economy.

The report added that mining sales dropped from $2,319,000,000 during the first 10 months of 1980 to $1,919,300,000 during the period this year.

Copper exports, the main Chilean mineral, decreased 21.2 percent; from $1,808,900,000 during January-October 1980 to $1,424,600,000 during the same period this year.

The export of industrial products also decreased 15.5 percent; from $1,270,800,000 during the first 10 months of 1980 to $1,074,000,000 during the same period in 1981.

Fishing and agricultural products increased 5.5 percent; from $312.7 million in 1980 to $330 million this year.

Regarding imports, consumer goods increased from $1,119,500,000 during the first 10 months in 1980 to $1,622,700,000 during the same period in 1981. This meant an increase of 45 percent.

Imports of capital goods increased 30 percent; from $994.2 million in 1980 to $1,294,200,000 in 1981.

The purchase of intermediate goods increased 9.3 percent; from $2,531,900,000 in 1980 to $2,766,000,000 this year.

The various products which entered through the duty-free zone reached $342.5 million during the first 10 months of this year as compared to $296.6 million during the same period last year.

BRIEFS

NEW UNDER SECRETARIES -- President Pinochet has confirmed most under secretaries in their posts. There were only two exceptions. The defense and mining under secretaries leave their posts, which have been filled by Col Renato Fuenzalida and Cmdr Alvaro Larenas, respectively. This has been reported by Gen Julio Bravo Valdez, minister secretary general of government. [Text] [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Dec 81 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON TALKS WITH HAIG AT OAS

PA081952 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Interview with Colombian Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Did your government take a position in the matter of the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Haig regarding a possible U.S. intervention in Central America?

[Answer] I talked with Mr Haig for a long time and with great frankness. I informed him that our nations consider all kinds of intervention uncalled for. Mr Haig said this in his own speech before the foreign ministers in Castries.

Our talks were not limited to that issue. We very thoroughly examined all the political and economic aspects of the area (?that we represent). As a result of this and other talks between the foreign ministers and Mr Haig, he obtained a clear idea of Latin America's thinking, not only regarding its relations with the United States, the improvement of which should be a two-way street -- because it is not enough for us to improve; the United States also has to take a more realistic view of our situation -- but also regarding all aspects of actions that our nations could take jointly, specifically in the Caribbean basin.

We were pleased by the fact that on several occasions Mr Haig emphasized the importance of Colombia, as a Caribbean country, in the development of any country that seeks to increase the purchasing power and the standard of living of the new Caribbean countries. [sentence as heard]

Similarly, in his speech that was hailed by all countries, Haig announced that a plan had been established to give more economic aggressiveness [beligerancia economica] to emerging countries and make their economies more solid in order to strengthen their democracies.

SHIP CREWED BY CUBANS DETAINED BY CUSTOMS

PA092007 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Barranquilla -- It was officially reported today that a ship carrying weapons and ammunition and crewed by four Cubans was stopped by local customs authorities near (Bocas de Cenizas).

Jose Cervantes Angulo, this station's correspondent in Barranquilla, has learned that the Cuban crewmen are being questioned at present by military intelligence agents.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS 20 GUERRILLAS KILLED

PA100416 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota -- The National defense Ministry has reported that 20 guerrillas belonging to the 19 April Movement, M-19, were killed in the last few days in clashes with regular troops.

Six guerrillas were killed during a fight that took place on 6 December by the (Pinena Negra) River, near La Bocana, some 800 km southwest of Bogota, in Putumayo intendancy. According to a report that this station received from the authorities, four guerrillas were also arrested in the area.

During the fight with the M-19 leaders, one officer, one NCO and one enlisted man were injured. Army units confiscated a large quantity of weapons and ammunition.

On 7 December, during an army raid in Medellin, two M-19 guerrillas were killed. One woman was arrested. The dead guerrillas were identified as (Enrique Turizo) and (Julio Restrepo). In the house that was raided, the army units found weapons, ammunition and propaganda alluding to the subversive movement.

The authorities also reported that several guerrillas were killed or arrested during a confrontation between the army and M-19 near (Belen de los Santaquies) in Caqueta last weekend.

The Public Relations Office of the National Defense Ministry has announced that an official report will be issued this afternoon on the results of operations carried out by the military forces in the last few days.

M-19 GUERRILLAS KIDNAP WEALTHY RANCHER

PA091734 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2248 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] La Plata, 8 Dec (EFE) -- A 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrilla unit today kidnapped rancher Luis Alfonso Bermeo Falla, who was on his way from the Colombian town of La Plata to visit one of his rural properties.

A military spokesman said that the rancher was captured by the guerrillas in a place called "Chilicambe" and taken to the mountainous area of Belen.

The military authorities have not been informed of ransom demands being made for the release of the rancher.

In Colombia, more than 20 kidnap victims are still being held by guerrilla groups and common criminals.

BRIEFS

NEW PROVINCE CREATED -- Starting today, Colombia has 23 departments or provinces because Congress approved the new political-administration division of El Caqueta. The new province covers 100,000 km, has 380,000 inhabitants and its own capital.
[Paris AFP in Spanish 0337 GMT 3 Dec 81 PA]

PRESIDENT SAYS ARMS SENT TO SALVADORAN REBELS

PA091715 Paris AFP in Spanish 0311 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Lima, 8 Dec (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins denied that his government is sending arms to El Salvador. He specified that this policy regarding the Caribbean is to keep it as a peace zone.

In an interview granted on Barquisimeto to the leftist Lima paper EL DIARIO, Herrera Campins declared that with respect to Central America and the Caribbean, he is following "a serious and independent policy aimed at projecting the values of freedom and democracy to the rest of the continent." Herrera Campins added, "we believe the Caribbean should be a peace zone, one in which the passions of the rest of the nations are not felt. We have always been favorably disposed toward peaceful situations."

The Venezuelan president indicated that he has "very poor relations with Cuba" which date back to an airplane crash and said that he complies with an agreement with the USSR for facilitating oil supplies despite the fact that the term of the agreement has already expired twice. He also made reference to Venezuela and Mexico supplying Latin America with the oil it needs, for it which it pays only 70 percent of the OPEC price.

With respect to El Salvador, Herrera Campins said that a campaign has been orchestrated at the world level regarding the guerrillas. He said that this campaign is more vigorous than the one orchestrated with respect to extremist movements in Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua, Argentina and to what happened after the fall of Allende. After indicating that such a campaign is (?fostered by) the USSR, the president declared that Venezuela sends not even the tinest bullet to El Salvador. The Salvadoran Government receives Venezuelan economic aid. Herrera Campins ended by saying that those accusing Venezuela of arming the Salvadoran regime are the same ones who supply the rebels with war materiel and collect money to send to them.

THREE PLANES FROM HIJACKING ARRIVE FROM CUBA

AVENSA 727 Arrives

PA091714 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1708 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] At exactly 1250 this afternoon, the AVENSA Boeing-727 that had been hijacked on Monday arrived in Maiquetia. The airplane was carrying 22 passengers and its crew. All of them are in perfect health. There were strict security measures at the airport and the passengers and the crew were taken to the offices of th Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, DISIP, for questioning. The two aeropostal airplanes are expected to arrive at any moment in the Maiquetia International Airport.

Aeropostal Planes Arrive

PA092031 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2016 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Caracas, 9 Dec (EFE) -- The two "Aeropostal" planes, which had been hijacked to Havana, arrived in Venezuela this afternoon with 87 passengers aboard. With the arrival of these two planes, the odyssey of the triple hijacking which started at Maiquetia Airport early on Monday is over.

The first plane to return to Venezuela from Havana also was a "Boeing 727-200" of "AVENSA" airlines. It brought 23 passengers and arrived at noon today.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENES IN PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS

PA092210 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] The Government Ministry has introduced "new requirements" for the assignment of radio frequencies. These new requirements make it obligatory for private radio stations to broadcast the state-operated Radio Nacional programs during certain morning and night hours and at noon.

The Board of Directors of the Panamanian Association of Radio Broadcasters (APR), as well as a large number of the country's radio broadcasters, will go to Government Minister Jorge Ritter's office today to denounce this proviso for the assignment and operation of frequencies.

The "new requirements" appear in esolution No 824 authorizing Jose Gabriel Diaz to transfer the 1060-kHz frequency to "La Voz de Panama S.A.," the name of a firm. The resolution states that in order to broadcast on this frequency, the licensee "must make a commitment to rebroadcast Radio Nacional's news services in the morning, noon and afternoon hours, as well as events of national interest chosen by the National Directorate for the Social Communication Media [Direccion Nacional de Medios de Comunicacion Social]. The licensee must also adopt and implement the programs established in the basic programming prepared by the National Directorate for the Social Communication Media. The licensee must comply with the radio broadcasting policies of the Government Ministry.

In addition, the state reserves the right to cancel the license at any moment that it deems necessary for national security reasons.

LA PRENSA has been able to verify that the new regulations did not exist before in resolutions for the assignment of frequencies. Law 155 of 1962, which regulates the assignment and operation of radio frequencies, specifies the obligations and rights of the licensee and does not authorize the state to interfere with private programming.

Fernando Eleta Casanova, president of the Panamanian Association of Radio Broadcasters [APR], has told LA PRENSA that "these measures are like a sword that could be used at any moment to behead freedom of expression." He said that the APR is doing research to determine how many similar resolutions have been issued to radio stations in the past few months. Eleta said that he hopes "that this type of resolution is not the result of a plan by the authorities to destroy, under the appearance of legal order, the freedom of listeners to select their programs and the freedom of radio enterprises to prepare responsible programs."

Eleta concluded by stating that "it is ironic that the resolution states that it is legally based on Law 155 when it actually goes against the letter and the spirit of that law."

A radio commentator said that these measures "are typical of leftist totalitarian regimes that want to silence the people and to force them to listen only to the regime's official voice."

A radio broadcaster said that "it is strange to hear talk of liberty and democracy while subtle measures are being used to silence all the independent commentators by taking from them the time they have in various radio stations to make it available for Radio Nacional newscasts.

NONREGISTERED PARTIES SEEK TO HELP DRAFT CODE

PA082123 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 8 Dec 81 p 1-A

[Text] Political parties that have not yet been formally authorized will request that they be considered for inclusion in the discussions on drafting the new "electoral code," which will govern the 1984 presidential elections.

It was learned this morning that leaders of groups such as the Popular Nationalist Party [PNP], the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [MOLIRENA], the Agrarian Labor Party [PLA] and the Republican Party, among others, will ask the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal to include them as participants in the talks that the organization will hold with representatives of authorized political parties.

There are no existing laws to regulate the 1984 elections for president and vice president of the republic, which will be the first time in 16 years that the chiefs of the executive branch will be chosen by free, direct vote.

The Electoral Tribunal officials are reportedly to meet only with representatives of legalized political parties: The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the People's Action Party (PAPO), the Popular Broad Front (FRAMPO), the Liberal Party and the People's Party.

The primary objective of the talks is to seek a "consensus" in drafting a new "electoral code" that will govern not only the election of the president and vice president of the republic, but also that of the 505 corregimiento representatives and provincial legislators.

Spokesmen for the nonregistered parties maintain that, in time, their groups will reach and surpass the minimum quota of 30,000 members that will automatically make them "100 percent legal."

The talks to seek that "consensus" on the new electoral code will begin soon, almost certainly in early January.

NICARAGUAN HIJACKERS ACCUSE COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT

PA091416 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 8 Dec 81 pp 3, 13

[Text] Several Nicaraguans paid Costa Rican President Carazo $500,000 to release six of their countrymen imprisoned in Costa Rica. This was revealed yesterday by Wilfredo Espinoza Ramirez, one of the second group of Nicaraguans arraigned before the First Penal Court in San Salvador, according to his defense lawyer, Juan Ramon Rosales y Rosales.

Espinoza Ramirez, 24, was arraigned along with Victor Ramon Huembes Jimenez, 24; Rolando William Zepeda, 29; Ivonne Hunter Martinez, 27; and Norma Estela Simard Bravo, 23. These people are part of a group of 11 Nicaraguans detained in El Salvador since 30 October when they landed in Salvadoran territory after having hijacked an aircraft which took them from San Jose, Costa Rica, where another 6 Nicaraguans, arraigned before the courts on Saturday, had been released. Those released in Costa Rica are Hugo Jose Villagran Guiterrez, Luis Humberto Solorzano Gonzales, Jose Luis Lopez Gutierrez, Roger Benavides Castellon, Orlando Murillo Gonzalez and Jose Eliseo Guiterrez Amplie. This information was revealed in an exclusive report by EL DIARIO DE HOY yesterday.

Espinoza Ramirez' declaration, which was the longest, according to Rosales y Rosales, states that the six Nicaraguans release in Costa Rica were pardoned by President Carazo. That is, they obtained their release through Carazo's pardon. He said that the aircraft had not been hijacked and that the whole thing had been arranged with Carazo.

Referring to the payment of the $500,000, Espinoza Ramirez said that he met with President Carazo three times in October. The last time they met, he gave the Costa Rican president a briefcase containing $500,000. Espinoza Ramirez said that this had taken place in a "discreet" motel in San Jose. Espinoza said he had gone to San Jose to help his imprisoned companeros, especially Roger Benavides Castellon, who was recovering from 10 bullet wounds received during the attack on Radio Noticias del Continente; and that he had been able to meet the three times with Carazo through the efforts of several San Jose officials. Through these meetings they reached an agreement for the liberation of the six Nicaraguans. He said that they were all members of the anticommunist 15 September Legion.

Espinoza Ramirez said that Radio Noticias del Continente, which broadcast from Grecia, Costa Rica, was directed by Argentine guerrilla Francisco Aguilar Bulgareli, and that the building was under the command of another Argentine guerrilla, Mario Fermenich. They are close friends of former Costa Rican Security Minister Echeverria Braeley and with Grecia Judge Timoteo Hernandez. Therefore, Espinoza Ramirez said, according to Rosales y Rosales, he was compelled to meet directly with President Carazo.

Rosales y Rosales said that Espinoza Ramirez declared that he did not commit air piracy in the release of the six Nicaraguans. The whole thing was the result of an agreement between President Carazo and Espinoza Ramirez and in which $500,000 was paid.

The five Nicaraguans arraigned yesterday and the six arraigned Saturday are subject to extradition procedures requested by judicial authorities in San Jose, Costa Rica. Their legal situation will be clarified in the next few days.

GUATEMALA

NEW GUERRILLA GROUP ANNOUNCES READINESS

PA092030 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Guatemala City -- A new guerrilla group which says it will struggle against the government and the press announced today that it is ready to begin armed actions.

The group called Command of the Popular Forces of the People [Comando de las Fuerzas Populares del Pueblo] promised to fight against the army, the print and electronic media and the national institutions, a communique sent to the newspapers indicates.

TERRORISTS ATTACK POLICE POST, GAS STATIONS

PA091907 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The municipalities of Mixco and Amatitlan were apparently calm today following last night's terrorist attacks. As we reported during our newscast last night, several groups of armed men attacked the building housing the police substation at Mixco with gunfire and later with fire bombs. A national policeman was killed and three were seriously wounded during the attack.

One hour later, four armed men and one woman, all masked, set fire to the (Atiole) gas station located on the entrance to the town of Amatitlan.

In view of the wave of terrorist attacks on gas stations, which are being set on fire by groups of subversives, police authorities have ordered a watch on the stations starting today. This is the only way to stop the fires that have been set lately in the capital and the interior of the country, it was asserted.

The (Atiole) station in Amatitlan was the latest to be set on fire by the terrorists. According to the complaint which its owner lodged with the authorities, his losses totaled 50,000 guetzals.

NICARAGUA

PARIS PAPER INTERVIEWS FORMER ENVOY ARTURO CRUZ

PM090949 Paris LE MATIN in French 1 Dec 81 p 12

[Henri de Bresson interview in Washington with former Nicaraguan Ambassador in Washington Arturo Cruz: "Nicaragua: Warnings From Dissident Ambassador in Washington"; date not given; first paragraph is LE MATIN introduction]

[Text] Arturo Cruz, Nicaraguan ambassador in Washington, who has resigned because of political disagreements with the Managua revolutionary junta, launches a cry of alarm in an interview with LE MATIN. "We have reached the breaking point...it is essential once and for all to reach a specific definition of a revolutionary plan acceptable to all the country's forces." This is a reference to the tense situation reigning in Managua, where 3 business leaders and some 20 Trotskyists were recently given prison sentences while the United States is stepping up its verbal attacks and threats. Arturo Cruz, who is 58 years old, a renowed economist and close to the Democratic Conservative Party, which has always supported the Managua regime established in 1979, and was even part of the government junta until March, was anxious to stress his "loyalty to the revolution." However, he now regards himself as a "dissident" in exile in the United States.

Washington -- In the view of Arturo Cruz, who will occupy the office of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington for a few more days, the revolution must first solve its internal problems and succeed in saving pluralism, despite the crisis in relations between Managua and the Reagan administration.

"First," he said, "we must reach a national concensus for the country's unification, and settle our differences with the United States later. That is the only way we can ensure the necessary climate for a revival of our economy. We must know what kind of revolution we want. If it becomes totalitarian or even authoritarian, economic difficulties will worsen and our international relations will be complicated. On the other hand, if we succeed in drawing up a practical definition of a pluralist political system making it possible for private enterprise and political parties to participate, guaranteeing individual freedoms and a real nonaligned policy, our plan will become more valid and we will have contributed to making the revolutionary process easier."

Despite the arrest of three leaders of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, one of whom was his close friend Enrique Dreyfus, a liberal who, like him, supported the revolution; and the arrest of several communist (Trotskiyist) leaders, Arturo Cruz sees several reasons to be optimistic: The government has drawn up a bill defining the terms under which political parties can exist; it has established contact with the editorial board of LA PRENSA (the independent opposition newspaper which has been suspended several times) to ry to reach an arrangement.

In the present crisis, the most serious one which the Nicaraguan revolution has experienced, Arturo Cruz dismisses both the opposition and the junta. He thinks that the dissident parties sometimes tend to go too far in their attacks, that some LA PRENSA articles could "involuntarily" contribute to aggravating problems, and that the external and economic problems are creating tension to which any government would be tempted to respond by tough measures. But he also criticizes the junta for overreacting and helping to increase tension by giving the impression that it is hesitating about the path to follow.

"The revolutionary leadership," he said, "sometimes gives the impression of being caught in a dilemma. It wants to pursue the revolutionary plan but realizes that there are constraints and objective conditions which impose limits. There is also a fear among the dissidents that they may find that some demands are being satisfied for purely tactical reasons. These fears are provoking the crisis."

Arturo Cruz also prefers not to be too pessimistic about the state of relations with the United States. He prefers to highlight not the threats of intervention in the recent statements by American leaders but the possibility of a solution should the Nicaraguan government want it. He stressed that relations have continued between the two governments through diplomatic channels and emphasized the will to "continue to explore solutions" demonstrated by the Nicaraguan Government.

Arturo Cruz strongly defended Managua's stance on the Salvadoran affair. He condemned the intervention plans attributed to Washington and he justified the arms effort which Nicaragua itself is making. "The truth is that Nicaragua must adopt a defensive position until the political situation in Central America is settled, while we continue to be attacked in the northern part of the country and while exiles are trained in camps in the United States.

"I think," he added, "that we must be grateful to Cuba for the support we have received, for its teachers, doctors and nurses. Our relations with Cuba should be very friendly and close. But, to avoid problems and be viable, the Nicaraguan Government must adopt a non-aligned position and must realize that we are in the Western Hemisphere, that the United States has natural ties with us, owing to our trade and cultural relations. There is an interdependence which cannot be avoided."

DANIEL ORTEGA COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA100206 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega insists that Nicaragua seeks to improve relations with Washington. The Nicaraguan Government maintains that channels are still open for better relations with the United States despite what he terms as U.S. intransigence.

The commander of the revolution and coordinator of the government junta, Daniel Ortega, speaking in fairly moderate terms, said last Monday that we have not exhausted peaceful negotiations and we seek an understanding on equal grounds.

Ortega told local and foreign reporters that since the victory of the revolution, Nicaragua has wanted normal relations with Washington.

When President James Carter was in office, Ortega went to Washington and both governments expressed the desire for good relations.

However, since President Ronald Reagan arrived in power and with certain situations in Nicaragua's domestic and foreign policy, things have changed.

COMMUNIQUE ON D'ESCOTO VISITS TO JAMAICA, USSR

PA100404 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Official communique on the activities of Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto in Jamaica and the USSR released by the Directorate of Dissemination and Press of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; dated 9 December 1981 -- read by unidentified official]

[Text] Communique No 23

The Directorate of Dissemination and Press of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction informs the people of Nicaragua that:

The minister of foreign affairs, Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, arrived in Jamaica yesterday, 8 December. On his arrival in Kingston, Foreign Minister d'Escoto Brockman was welcomed by Mr Hugh Shearer, deputy prime minister and acting prime minister of the Government of Jamaica during the absence of Mr Edward Seaga, who is visiting Canada.

Mr Shearer gave a welcoming banquet on the same day in honor of Foreign Minister d'Escoto Brockman which was attended by the members of the Cabinet. During the banquet, Shearer expressed a desire to increase ties between his government and the Government of Nicaragua.

On his part, Minister d'Escoto Brockman invited the Government of Jamaica to make a high-level visit to our country. The meeting was scheduled for the second week of February. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Neville Gallimore is expected to arrive in our country on the date scheduled.

Likewise, we inform the people of Nicaragua that Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto's official visit to the USSR will begin on Friday, 11 December, the date on which he will arrive in Moscow. A previous annoucement had stated that Foreign Minister d'Escoto would be arriving in the Soviet capital on Thursday, 10 December; but due to bad weather, he had to delay his trip 24 hours.

Managua, free Nicaragua, 9 December 1981

SAFECONDUCTS GRANTED TO 18 'EXILES' IN EMBASSIES

PA100018 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The revolutionary government has granted safeconduct to 18 persons who have been in asylum in local embassies since the revolutionary victory on 19 July 1979. Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco made the announcement a few minutes ago. He was accompanied by the Apostolic Nuncio in Nicaragua Msgr Andres Cordero de Montesomolo and the ambassadors of the embassies where the exiles have been staying.

Safeconduct was granted to (Leon (Tercena) Toruno), who is in the Argentine Embassy; (Oscar Armando Larios Morales) and (Dora Lara de Larios), who are in the Honduran Embassy; (Carlos Jiron Romero), (Santos Enrique Luna Garay), (Carlos Martinez Bravo), (Wences Salomon Guillen) and (Moises Ceriles Mendez), who are in the Guatemalan Embassy; Gregorio Pichardo Marengo, (Victor Leocadio Rivas Santie), (Guillermo Suazo Lacayo), (Engel Cerna Jurarez), (Jose Domingo Arguello), (Eduardo Sanchez Rollasco), (Maribel Gallegos de Sanchez), (Rebeca Sanchez Gallegos), (Danilo Gonzalez Mendieta) and (Silvio Cuadra Chamorro), who are in the Venezuelan Embassy.

Tinoco stressed the revolutionary process' generosity in allowing these persons, some of them deeply involved in the Somozist regime, to leave the country. He said that the revolutionary government complied with the request made by the Vatican's representative in Nicaragua.

[Begin Tinoco recording] We understand why the Nicaraguan people are worried about the departure of these people. After their release they might play a part in the efforts to destablize the government and create more conflicts. However, in view of the official request made by the Vatican through its representative here, who is trying to partially solve the problem of persons in asylum, the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has decided to comply with the Vatican's request. It has granted safeconduct to the following persons. [names repeated]

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL -- The Nicaraguan Energy Institute has announced in a news conference that a broad technical and financial cooperation agreement, by means of a line of credit, was recently signed with the Brazilian Mines and Energy Ministry. Nicaragua may obtain equipment, machinery and consulting teams from Brazil. [Managua EL NEUVO DIARIO in Spanish 29 Nov 81 p 7 PA]

FOOD PROGRAM -- The world food program has donated some 1,660 tons of powdered milk to Nicaragua valued at 22.5 million cordobas. This donation was made within the framework of a renewable agreement for development projects. The agreement was signed yesterday by Commander Jaime Wheelock and Juan Luis Larraube, assistant representative of this program. [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 81 p 6 PA]

HUNGARIAN MINERS DONATION -- Over 2 million cordobas were donated by Hungarian miners to La Libertad mine workers, in a special ceremony Saturday. The donation was made by Hungarian ambassador in Nicaragua, Janos Kiss, who said the donation expressed the solidarity of the Hungarian people and Government with the Sandinist revolution. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 81 PA]

INTERIOR MINISTRY NOTE ON PLANES' HIJACKING

FL091238 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The Interior Ministry has released a note, which reads:

At approximately 1100 yesterday, three Venezuelan aircraft were obliged to land, due to technical reasons and with a short interval between each landing, at the Jose Marti airport, Havana City. The aircraft are: A Boeing 727, belonging to AVENSA; and two DC-9's, belonging to Aeropostal.

The aircraft were detoured from their routes by a group of 11 persons, who stated that the action that they had taken was for political reasons.

The passengers and crews of the aircraft have been lodged in a motel in this capital. They are now resting after a journey through several Central American countries, which lasted for approximately 24 hours. The Venezuelan airlines have been offered every type of help for the return of the passengers and the aircraft. All the passengers and the crew are in a perfect state of health.

As mentioned above, the kidnappers have declared that at no time did they have the intention of arriving in Cuba and that they were obliged to do so because of the technical condition of the aircraft.

After handing over their weapons to and placing themselves at the disposal of the Cuban authorities, the members of the armed group were placed under arrest, and they will be put under the jurisdiction of the appropriate courts, which will judge the events.

NATIONAL HEALTH WORKERS UNION HOLDS CONGRESS

FL091340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The Fifth Congress of the National Health Workers Union will close today. More than 500 delegates are participating in the event, which began yesterday at the main theater in the city of Camaguey.

During the inaugural session, which was presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura; Sergio del Valle, head of MINSAP [Ministry of Public Health]; and Pedro Miret -- all members of the Politburo, the delegates held a minute of silence in honor of the international Cuban teacher, Aguedo Morales, who was despicably assassinated by counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua.

Fidel Addresses Closing

FL100310 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 0128 GMT on 10 December begins live coverage of the closing ceremony of the Fifth Congress of the National Health Workers Union being held in the city of Camaguey, Camaguey province. Cuban President Fidel Castro is the announced speaker.

As coverage opens, the camera pans the audience and presidium of the ceremony on the stage of the Alcazar Theater. Among the Cuban leaders at the presidium the following are identifiable: Public Health Minister Sergio del Valle; Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions; Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura; and Adolfo Valdivia, secretary general of the National Health Workers Union.

Representing the union membership in Camaguey Province, a delegate presents to Fidel Castro a ceramic work of art, typical of that province's works of art. Another delegate from the province of Santiago de Cuba presents an artificial kidney made in his province by Cuban technicians.

Announcer Manolo Ortega introduces Fidel Castro and he begins speaking at 0134 GMT. Most of his speech deals with Cuba's accomplishments in the field of medicine as compared to other Third World countries. Castro ends his speech at 0318 GMT.

OFFICIAL OPENS MEETING OF CEMA COMMISSION

FL082152 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Dr Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and minister of justice, today opened the working sessions of the 50th CEMA Permanent Commission for Standardization at Havana City's Palace of Conventions.

During the meeting, which will end on 12 December, the annual report of the commission will be rendered and the tasks ordered by the Council, CEMA's supreme body, by the Executive Committee and by other CEMA commissions will be examined. Participating in the meeting are representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechsolovakia.

The permanent commissions are established for the purpose of overseeing the development of mutual relations and of the scientific, technical and economic cooperation among the countries making up CEMA in the specific branch for which they are created.

Others present at the opening session were Helmut Lilie, chairman of the CEMA Permanent Commission for Cooperation in the Sphere of Standardization; (R. Dies), chief of the CEMA Secretariat; and other personalities.

ALARCON SAYS U.S. MILITARY THREAT NOT DISCOUNTED

PA100410 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, vice minister of foreign relations, in an interview granted to the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, said that the possibility that the United States will resort to military measures against Cuba and Nicaragua has not been dismissed.

Alarcon charged that the United States is carrying out an international offensive to condition public opinion toward an acceptance of its aggressive plans against Cuba.

He also condemned the U.S. Government's efforts to promote the diplomatic isolation of Cuba by causing its ties with Latin American and Caribbean countries to be severed. This campaign is reflected in the decisions adopted by the Governments of Costa Rica, Colombia, and Jamaica.

Ricardo Alarcon recalled that counterrevolutionary groups of both Cuban and Nicaraguan origin are making preparations with impunity inside the United States, with the obvious intent of participating in aggressive actions against the two countries.

In his statement to the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, the vice foreign minister also touched on his recent tour of Guyana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Barbados and St Lucia. He noted that our country attaches special importance to the Caribbean area, because we live in this geographic area and the countries of the zone are our immediate neighbors.

STATE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE COMMEMORATES ANNIVERSARY

FL090223 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The task of cooperation is a revolutionary task, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, stated in his closing remarks at a ceremony commemorating the fifth anniversary of the founding of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Rodriguez noted that, for Cuba, cooperation with other countries is a duty from the Marxist point of view and because of our internationalist position; and also because our country, since the first years after the triumph of the revolution, has benefited from the aid and cooperation offered by the socialist camp.

During the ceremony, Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the committee, made a speech in which he referred to the basic tasks of the institution for the 1981-1985 5-year period.

In recognition of his efforts at the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, a commemorative certificate and lapel button were presented to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and all workers with 5 years of service.

Members of the Central Committee and officials of the committee attended the ceremony.

GROUP MARKS DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

FL092125 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Since the establishment of the Zionist state of Israel, the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights has never ceased, Levi Farah, minister without portfolio and president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, has asserted during a ceremony held on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with Palestine.

(Imad Yaddah), charge d'affaires of the PLO mission in Cuba, said in a speech at the commemoration that his people's tragedy began in 1947. Since then, they have been forced to live dispersed throughout the world in camps and massacred by Zionism, he added.

DELEGATES LEAVE FOR BAGHDAD NONALIGNED MEETING

FL091542 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] A delegation from the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, led by its minister president -- Joaquin Benavides Rodriguez, has left for Baghdad to take part in the second meeting of labor ministers of the nonaligned nations.

The meeting will deal with topics related to problems of employment policy, professional training, work safety measures for the workers and joint actions of the Nonaligned Movement in the International Labor Organization, among other topics.

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES CABINET CHANGES, NEW DUTIES

FL100017 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The People's Revolutionary Government has announced (?several) changes and new allocations of ministerial portfolios. The announcement was made in the 4 December (?issue) of the Grenadian GAZETTE, which is now published.

According to the GAZETTE, the former Ministery of Finance, Trade, Industry and Planning is now the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Trade, with the portfolio of industry going to the new Ministry of Industrial Development and Fisheries. The Ministry of Industrial Development combines the former Ministry of Industry [words indistinct] and the Ministry of Agro-industry.

The second change is in the former Ministry of Legal Affairs and Justice which has been renamed the Ministry of Justice. Thus, Comrade Bernard Coard is now the minister of planning, finance and trade, while Comrade Kenrick Radix is now the minister of justice and attorney general. Comrade Radix is also the minister of industrial development and fisheries.

The other change has to do with the Ministry of Defense where (Maj Edward Lane) and (Capt Chris Shore) have been appointed as deputy secretaries of defense.

JAMAICA

GLEANER DISCUSSES U.S. HEMISPHERIC POLICY

FL091630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1612 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 9 Dec (CANA) -- THE GLEANER newspaper here has said that the United States should aim not at hegemony in the hemisphere, but at creating in the area, a strong sense of common interest. In its editorial, THE GLEANER said that the days of gun-boat diplomacy and the Monroe Doctrine were over, and President Ronald Reagan could not expect to adopt the same (?attitude) of his predecessors. It said that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig had struck the correct tone when he told reporters in Saint Lucia that the United States would avoid a patronizing attitude to states in the hemisphere and seeing itself as the exclusive policeman of the Americas. It noted too that Mr Haig had spoken about the U.S. wish to normalize relations with Nicaragua, presumably if there was an undertaking by that country to shift policies which the Americans find offensive.

Said THE GLEANER: "So, the United States must aim not at hegemony of the hemisphere, but at creating in it a strong sense of common interest. This is no easy task: But perhaps the elections in Honduras show that there is a growing willingness to face the realities of the age."

OBSERVER NOTES REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN POLICY

FL091940 Bridgetown CANA in English 1910 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 9 ec (CANA) -- Political scientist Dr Carl Stone said today the Reagan administration would not make much headway in its attempt to forge an anti-Cuba front in the Caribbean while promoting an apparent "policy of benign neglect... under the smokescreen of promoting private investment as a new strategy."

Dr Stone argued that the appearance of "special pampering and assistance" to Jamaica by Reagan would increasingly fuel the view among the island's Caribbean neighbours that it was a U.S. lackey which could not be trusted.

Dr Stone is a liberal supporter of Prime Minister Edward Seata's strongly pro-Western Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) government, and his views were contained in a regular column he writes for THE GLEANER newspaper here.

The University of the West Indies lecturer said there was great disquiet among regional leaders over President Reagan's view that all the Caribbean needed was "merely more injection of private foreign investment," hence America's de-emphasizing of direct public sector transfers.

Wrote Dr Stone: "What is of interest is the fact that the attacks on Reagan's policies are being led by countries whose leaders support his anti-Cuba and anti-communist line in the region. These leaders are becoming very wary of the sleight of hand by which Reagan seeks to promote what they see as a policy of benign neglect towards the poorer countries of the region under the smokescreen of promoting private investment as a new strategy."

He said most Caribbean leaders had always favoured foreign private investment, which was a fact the United States well knew.

"Reagan's preaching to the converted has, therefore, fallen on deaf ears because he seeks their support politically in the isolation of Cuba, but does not wish to pay the price of increasing the aid flows to the region on a level that could ease the revenue capital and balance of payments needs and gaps most countries are experiencing," Stone said.

Dr Stone mentioned Barbados, Antigua and Dominica among the countries that had become disenchanted with President Reagan who, after arousing their expectation for aid, was concerned with ideological balance only "despite so much rhetoric being devoted to the Caribbean Basin plan."

He pointed out that the U.S. administration could not cut back spending at home, meaning a loss in jobs and cuts in welfare benefits, and at the same time increase its aid programme to the Caribbean.

President Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig had miscalculated in believing that Caribbean leaders could be "easily duped or confused by double talk" and by playing on their fears of Cuba and communism.

There was a backlash on the relations between Jamaica, which has been receiving special U.S. attention, and the rest of the Caribbean, Dr Stone contended.

He wrote: "The development of these tensions within the anti-Cuba alliance has some serious effects for Jamaica, as these frustrated eastern Caribbean fellow travellers get the uncomfortable feeling that Jamaica is in the receiving end of special pampering and assistance from Reagan."

"More and more even the countries who are hostile to Cuba and who share Seaga's fear of communism are increasingly likely to view the Jamaican Government as a U.S. satellite or lackey whose relationship with the big neighbour up north must not be fully trusted."

Dr Stone said that such a trend would defeat U.S. intentions based on the premise that Prime Minister Seaga was potentially as influential as ex-prime minister, Michael Manley.

And if Jamaica could not "convincingly or militantly" argue the cause for assistance for the poorer east Caribbean states, Dr Stone said, Jamaica's influence would decline in favour of Trinidad and Tobago.

Should new Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, George Chambers, continue in the Eric Williams mold, Trinidad and Tobago's growth in influence in the region would not be a corresponding U.S. growth.

Dr Stone also questioned the long-term wisdom of the close alliance between the United States and Jamaica, as well as the promotion of Jamaica, with U.S. assistance, as the economic model that regional countries should follow.

He said: "The vulgar and ill-advised over-selling of the so-called Jamaican model of economic recovery even before any real recovery has appeared on the horizon leaves many thinking minds in the region to wonder where the special Jamaica-U.S. tie up since October 1980 (when Seaga came to power) is not an overdramatised political game that could disappear as quickly as it emerged if the U.S. sees no real gains coming from it."

He noted, however, that the relationship had been so advertised that for U.S. credibility, at least in the short term, it had to give maximum assistance to Jamaica.

REAGAN'S 'IMAGE SHRINKING,' PAPER STATES

FL091645 Bridgetown CANA in English 1619 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 9 Dec (CANA) -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan's image as the "all-American superman" who would work economic miracles was now shrinking to life size, as America continues to find itself in bitter economic woes, the Jamaica DAILY NEWS said today. But, the paper said this may not be because President Reagan had delivered too little but because his supporters were expecting too much.

Said the DAILY NEWS in an editorial: "The truth is the U.S. economy has been in deep trouble for a long time. That it is the most wealthy, powerful and influential nation in the world has blinded most people to the fact that on the criteria established for other countries, the United States cannot be considered a good financial risk by the IMF (International Monetary Fund).

It has been living beyond its means for years and the declining influence and value of the U.S. dollar has been one of the indicators. "The policies imposed by his (President Reagan's) predecessors have tended to show up weak areas in the economy, and at the risk of inflation have fed considerable buying power into the country by generous social welfare spending."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

EXPRESS EDITORIAL LASHES OUT AT SUPERPOWERS

FL092032 Bridgetown CANA in English 1930 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, 9 Dec (CANA) -- What Trinidad and Tobago's minister of external affairs, Dr Basil Ince, did not say in his statement to the Organisation of American States General Assembly in Saint Lucia on Monday, is that the Caribbean territories are "poor, literally on their knees seeking assistance, and acutely vulnerable to the blandishments of the cold war antagonists", the Trinidad EXPRESS said in its editorial today.

Claiming that the remarks were nevertheless implied in Dr Ince's address to the meeting, the newspaper concluded that although Dr Ince mentioned no names that "clearly he was talking about the United States and the Soviet Union as well as their surrogates in the region who preach non-alignment out of one side of their mouths and lackeyism out of the other side."

"Trinidad and Tobago, from the vantage point of an oil-rich economy, is able to rise above what is after all the late 20th century version of the imperialistic competition that has plagued this chain of islands since Columbus made his first trip to the West 400 years ago," the daily noted.

"Dr Ince was in a position to warn about the use of aid as a means of subverting the independence of states and institutions operating among them." He referred pointedly to "the major powers and those under their guidance" who see the region in strictly strategic and geopolitical terms and imported their tensions into it, it added.

"There was also the question of interference in the domestic affairs of states, there was the need as well to be ever vigilant against becoming involved in the cold war strategies based on great power rivalry."

The daily said the only the idealist would expect big power aid in whatever form to be without strings. It said that the stark fact was that there was a cold war on, one with nuclear potential, and the superpowers were looking for friends.

"If by dropping some money here and favourable trade terms there either the United States or the Soviet Union can establish a base for their operations, including subversion, they will try," it declared.

The EXPRESS went on to say that "a Caribbean government, or one in any other region, faced with high unemployment, a foreign exchange crisis, and the effects of recession in the United States would take whatever it could get."

"Hence this region has become a playground for offshore banks, offshore medical schools, a target for mercenaries, and are little more than pawns in the cold war chess game," said the EXPRESS. It continued: "If the region is to win the respect of the superpowers, it first must respect itself. It must make the regional institutions work, because no matter the poverty of the territories, pooling of resources, integrated planning of economic development will open the way to self-help and self-respect."

At the same time, the CARICOM territories that were of more immediate concern to Trinidad and Tobago had their political problems.

"Without interferring in domestic political arrangements, it is possible to deplore that state of continual crisis in which the Government of Saint Lucia has found itself since the last election, as well as the situation in Grenada, where more than two years after a coup there is no rule of law and the absence of the freedoms enshrined in constitutions such as that of Trinidad and Tobago," it said.

The EXPRESS deemed it unfortunate that the region remained in political and economic turmoil and said this constituted fair game for adventurers operating either out of respectable foreign capitals, or in murky centres where mercenaries gathered.

"Dr Ince made it clear Trinidad and Tobago is unhappy with all this. Will he now urge his cabinet colleagues to move from the area of talk to the realm of action?" the editorial asked.

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT WORKERS PAY DEMANDS -- Port-of-Spain -- Trinidad and Tobago's chief establishments officer, Hilton Cupid, has rapped the attitude of public service unions now locked in a pay negotiations dispute with the government. The government is offering the workers a 55 percent salary hike over three years while the unions are demanding a 73 percent rise over the same period. Mr Cupid condemned statements by the unions that they would close down the public service if their demands were not met. He also deplored the calls by the unions for their members to use physical violence to achieve their objective. The senior government negotiator said that in the present atmosphere of duress and intimidation, it might become difficult for the talks to continue. The talks, which have been going on for some time now, continued today. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 9 Dec 81 FL]

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GEN WESSIN Y WESSIN PROCLAIMED CANDIDATE

PA071544 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0017 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Santo Domingo, 6 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Today Gen Elias Wessin Y Wessin (retired) was proclaimed presidential candidate of the opposition Quisqueyan Democratic Party [PQD] for the May general elections in the Dominican Republic.

The proclamation was made at a crowded meeting headed by Wessin Y Wessin in La Romana on the southeastern coast of the country, 131 km from Santo Domingo.

With Wessin Y Wessin's proclamation, the candidates for this coming year's elections are Salvador Jorge Blanco of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, Joaquin Balaguer of the Reformist Party, Juan Tomas Mejia Feliu of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party and Narciso Isa Conde of the Dominican Communist Party.

Political sources have said that the proclamation of Juan Bosch as candidate of the Dominican Liberation Party and possibly the joining of the leftwing forces is expected soon.

Wessin said that he accepted the nomination without reservation and criticized President Antonio Guzman's government.

Wessin was candidate of his party in the 1970 and 1978 elections. In 1971 the then-president, Joaquin Balaguer, accused him of heading a foiled plot and ordered his arrest.

Balaguer left the matter up to a junta of generals who decided to deport him. Wessin lived in exile for several years in Panama and Spain.

GUYANA

AMBASSADOR DENIES CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN STRIKE

FL092302 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 9 Dec (CANA) -- The Cuban ambassador here, Ivan Martinez, has denied as "totally false," a report that Cuba might have been involved in a three-month sugar strike here in 1977 and that the communist Caribbean island has been giving military training to members of the opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA).

Ambassador Martinez also denied that members of the Cuban Embassy here had ever been expelled by the Guyana Government for involvement in Guyana's politics.

President of the main sugar union and leader of the official opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr Cheddi Jagan also has denied that Cuba had anything to do with the 133 day strike in 1977, which he said was over profit sharing in the industry.

Several allegations about Cuban's involvement in the Carribbean were contained in a recently circulated U.S. confidential document. The dossier said of Guyana:

"In 1978, as many as 200 Cuban technicians advisers and medical personnel were stationed in Guyana. However while feigning fraternal relations with Guyana's leftist government, Cuba maintained contact with radical opposition groups.

"Guyanese authorities suspected the Cubans of involvement in a crippling 1978 sugar strike. In August 1978 five Cuban diplomats were expelled for involvement in illegal activities.

"Cuban military advisers have provided training outside Guyana to members of a small radical Guyanese opposition group, the Working People's Alliance. Five of the seven members of the Cuban Embassy are known or suspected intelligence agents," the report said.

A spokesman for the WPA said that the party had only just received reports of the allegations and that its Central Committee would be meeting later today, when the matter would be discussed.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown told CANA he was unaware of the reports, allegedly leaked from a state department white paper, and at present cannot therefore comment on them.

A Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs official also said this afternoon that he was unaware of the reports, but he promised a response later.

MIRROR BACK IN RESTRICTED CIRCULATION

FL081232 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Guyana's MIRROR newspaper is once again on the streets of the eastern Caribbean state after a 2-year lapse that saw the newspaper move from a daily to a 4-page weekly because of newsprint shortages there.

According to a news release signed by the editor, Mrs Janet Jagan, on behalf of the management and staff of the MIRROR, agreement has now been reached with the Guyana Government for the provision on a week-by-week basis of two rolls of newsprint weekly on condition that it be used to print only a four-page weekend edition of the paper.

The 19-year old MIRROR, the official organ of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), previously printed a 4-page daily and a 16-page Sunday edition.